

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown.

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
  - a first set of field replaceable units each being of a first type;
  - a first management bus, directly coupled to each of the first set of field replaceable units, ~~to couple only to field replaceable units having the first type;~~
  - a central management agent, coupled to the first management bus, to monitor each of the first set of field replaceable units and transmit signals to control each of the first set of field replaceable units; and
  - a communication link, coupled to the central management agent, to transmit signals received from the central management agent indicating failure of one or more of the first set of field replaceable units.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the system further comprises:
  - a second management bus, coupled to the central management agent, to couple only to field replaceable units having a second type; and
  - a second set of field replaceable units each being of the second type[;].

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the first and second management buses are Inter-IC buses.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a second central management agent coupled to the first management bus.

6. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first set of field replaceable units each being of a first type;

a first management bus, directly coupled to each of the first set of field replaceable units, ~~to couple only to field replaceable units having the first type~~;

a second set of field replaceable units each being of a second type;

a second management bus, directly coupled to each of the second set of field replaceable units, ~~to couple only to field replaceable units having the second type~~; and

a central management agent, coupled to the first management bus and the second management bus, to monitor and transmit signals to each of the first set of field replaceable units and the second set of field replaceable units, and to transmit signals to control activation of the first set of field replaceable units based upon signals received from the second set of field replaceable units.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the central management agent is a processor.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the first set of field replaceable units are temperature sensors and the second set of field replaceable units are power supplies.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising:  
a third management bus, coupled to the central management agent, to couple only to field replaceable units of a third type; and  
a third set of field replaceable units each being of the third type;

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the third set of field replaceable units are fan trays.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, further comprising a second central management agent coupled to the first management bus and the second management bus.

12. (Withdrawn) A central management agent comprising:  
a system management circuit;  
a first management bus interface coupled to the system management circuit to communicate management information with only a first type of field replaceable unit; and  
a second management bus interface coupled to the system management circuit to communicate management information with only a second type of field replaceable unit.

13. (Withdrawn) The central management agent of claim 12, wherein the system management circuit contains logic to determine that there has been a likely failure in a field replaceable unit of the first type based upon a determination that said first management bus is inoperable.

14. (Withdrawn) The central management agent of claim 13, wherein the central management agent further comprises an interface coupled to the system management circuit to communicate with a remote location.

15. (Withdrawn) The central management agent of claim 14, wherein the central management agent further comprises a third interface coupled to the processor to communicate management information to only a third type of field replaceable unit.

16. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

two or more temperature sensors;

a first management bus directly coupled to each of the two or more temperature sensors;

two or more fan trays;

a second management bus directly coupled to each of the two or more fan trays; and

a central management agent, coupled to the first management bus and the second management bus, to monitor the temperature sensors and the fan trays, and to transmit signals to control activation of one or more of the fan trays based upon signals received from one or more of the temperature sensors.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the system further comprises a central processing unit coupled to the central management agent.
18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the central management agent is an abstracting agent.
19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 further comprising one or more power supplies; and a third management bus coupled to the one or more power supplies and the central management agent;
20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising an external communication link coupled to the central management agent.
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17 further comprises a second central management agent coupled to the first management bus, to the second management bus, and to the central management agent.
22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 further comprises a redundant first management bus coupled to the central management agent and coupled to each of the one or more temperature sensors, wherein the first management bus is not coupled to any other components.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a component failure in a computer system, the method comprising:

detecting a failure indication at a central management agent for a first of a plurality of management buses; and

determining that a type of field replaceable units has likely failed based on the identity of said first management bus.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein said failure indication is the absence of an expected signal from said first management bus.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein the method further comprises sending a signal from said central management agent to a remote location that indicates the type of field replaceable unit that has likely failed.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein the method further comprises:

detecting a failure indication at the central management agent from a second one of said plurality of management buses in the computer system; and

determining that a second type of field replaceable unit has likely failed based on the identity of said second management bus.

27-30. (Cancelled)